

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 46-70 are pending in the application, with claims 46 and 64 being the independent claims. Claims 1-45 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 46-70 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Objection to the Claims

Claim 12 was objected to because of a typographical error or mistake “on the word ‘sparse.’” Claim 12 has been canceled by the above amendment rendering this objection moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1-15, 18-19, 21-32, 34-40, and 42-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Narad *et al.*, U.S. Patent 6,157,955 (Narad). In addition, claims 16-17, 20, 33, and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Narad. Applicants have canceled claims 1-45 by the above amendment, rendering these rejections moot.

Applicants further submit that Narad does not teach or suggest a system including “a classification module that determines security association information associated with

a plurality of packets, wherein the classification module is configured to provide at least a portion of the security information associated with the packets to a plurality of security processing engines” as recited in amended independent claim 46.

Furthermore, Narad does not teach or suggest “a method for classifying packets during security processing, comprising: receiving at least a portion of a header for each packet in a plurality of packets; determining security association information associated with each packet in the plurality of packets; and for each packet in the plurality of packets, providing at least a portion of the security association information associated with the packet to a corresponding security processing engine in a plurality of security processing engines” as recited in amended independent claim 64. Also, Narad does not teach or suggest a router, firewall, network communication device, security gateway, server, or network line card that includes the elements of claim 46, as recited in dependent claims 58-63, respectively.

For at least these reasons, and in view of their own features, claims 47-63 which depend from claim 46, and claims 65-70 which depend from claim 64 are patentable over Narad.

Conclusion

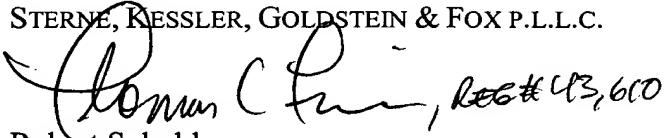
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will

expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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